

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning SB 1585 without my signature.

Safety of our food supply for the protection of our citizens is a priority of our State. California is one of 12 states that entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) governing the voluntary recall of meat and poultry products.

During recalls, participation and cooperation of the entire food chain is essential. This bill mandates reporting requirements that conflict with the MOU, compromising California's ability to obtain timely information from the federal government which could weaken our ability to protect public health.

To assist in improving the distribution of accurate timely information during these voluntary recalls, I direct the Department of Health Services to enter into a new MOU with USDA that expressly authorizes them to share recall information with local public health officials. This will increase the cooperation among all entities and provide greater protection of our states consumers.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger